

# Mom wins BIA shopping spree contest

Acton's Petrina Fraser cried tears of joy when she learned she'd won a \$400 shopping spree in downtown Acton as part of the BIA (Business Improvement Area) Deck the Halls wreath contest.

Fraser's name was chosen from among the shoppers who voted for their favourite wreath among the 23 downtown businesses that entered this year's contest.

"This (win) is perfect timing and I'm going to start Christmas shopping at one end of town and go to the other spending these BIA cheques," Fraser, a mother of two small boys who was laid off from Eagle Ottawa in October said as she accepted her prize on Tuesday morning.

Willow Lane Natural Food's beautiful white wreath with fairy lights captured first place in the contest. The winning wreath is the handiwork of Willow Lane employee Vicki Soder,

who also dressed the remainder of the store for the holiday season. Willow Lane receives \$200 in The New Tanner advertising for the win.

BIA general manager Janis Fread said this was the last year for the decorated wreath contest.

"It's (next year's event) is probably going to be an evening, shut down the street kind of a thing but we're just thinking about it now," Fread said as she presented the prizes to Fraser and Willow Lane.



**DECK THE HALLS:** Acton's Petrina Fraser (left) was thrilled with the \$400 in Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) gift certificates that she won for entering a ballot in the BIA's fourth annual Deck the Halls decorated wreath contest. Twenty-three downtown Acton businesses entered the contest and the first prize was awarded to Willow Lane Natural Food owners Annie (middle) and Harry Kirkof. - Frances Niblock photo

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**Kids and public washrooms**

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1. If at all possible, children under 19 should not go to a public washroom alone. They should be accompanied by a parent, older sibling or friend. If a boy is too old to accompany Mom to the ladies room, or if Dad is out with his little girl, perhaps a store employee would agree to keep an eye on the child in the washroom. The likelihood of abuse is very small because the employee is identifiable.

2. A second possibility is to have the employee check the washroom, and when all is clear, the parent can "guard" the door until the child is finished.

3. Children will usually be safer in a store washroom than in a general washroom in a mall. Large stores usually have separate facilities and children should be taught to ask store personnel for directions to them.

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4. Review with your children before they go out what they should do if they need to use the washroom, and check the facilities yourself at the places they often visit, such as sports centres or cinemas. If children out with friends know which places are safer, and always go together, they can learn to think preventively - that is, to use any safe facilities they find so they aren't caught with a need to go NOW in a place with no safe facilities.

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## Christmas dinner for IODE members

**BY DOT NORTON**  
First let me say a very Merry Christmas to each and all of you at The Tanner.

There were 13 ladies at a bountiful Christmas dinner at Sweet Dream Café on Dec. 1. We can't say thank you enough to the thoughtful ladies who put on the dinner with all the trimmings for this occasion.

After dinner, a short meeting was held to organize work for the coming year. Regent Helen Jocque has received a video, Women Working for Canada, which will be shown after the holiday.

After expenses, the November bazaar did make money but members are questioning the feasibility of continuing a project which requires so much work. Maybe we will come up with

some new ideas for this coming year. We do have to make some money to continue helping the needy.

Members also took Christmas gifts for those at Halton Women's Place. Joyce Sprowl will see that they get delivered. It seems to me Joyce is the run gal for some or most of the things we try to do.

It was great to see Mary Papillon back after her stint in hospital. Helen kept us entertained for a time with a little different Christmas quiz.

The group's next meeting will be at Mary McKenzie's home on the first Tuesday of the new year. Anyone wishing to join the group is most welcome.

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